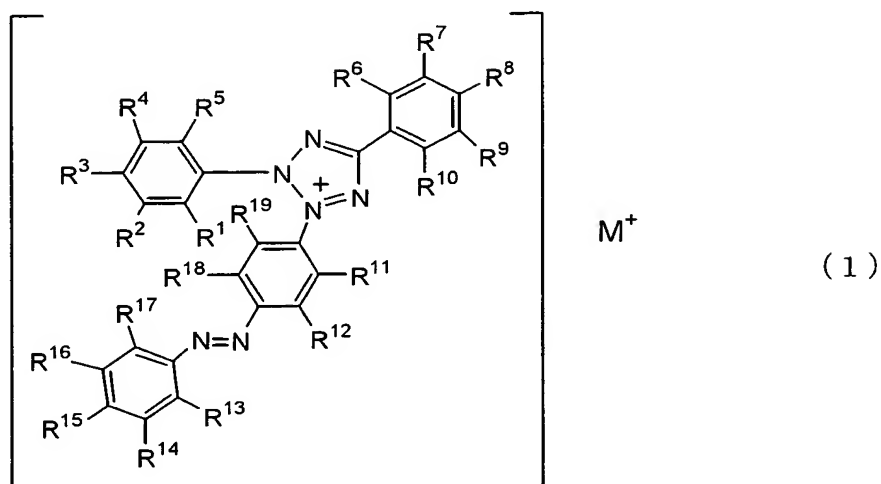


CLAIMS

1. A water soluble tetrazolium compound expressed by the following general formula (1):



wherein each of R¹ to R¹⁹ independently represents hydrogen atom; nitro group; sulfonate group; or alkyl, alkoxy, sulfoalkyl or sulfoalkyloxy groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; provided that each of at least two of R¹ to R¹⁹ independently represents sulfonate group; or sulfoalkyl or sulfoalkyloxy groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and M represents an alkali metal or ammonium ion.

2. A process for a quantitative analysis of dehydrogenase or substrate thereof, in which a tetrazolium compound of claim 1 is utilized.

3. The process of claim 2, in which the activity of the dehydrogenase present in cultured cells is measured.

4. The process of claim 2, in which the activity of the dehydrogenase leaked out of cells is measured.